

the rocks be removed to a depth of 55 feet below the low tide line. The main hazard that these rocks present is to tankers, which increasingly have drafts in excess of 45 feet. Bay SAFE directs the Army Corps of Engineers to lower these so that even the deepest draft tankers will not be endangered.

After rock hazards are removed, Bay SAFE directs the Coast Guard to reroute vessel traffic to minimize the risk of an oil spill. At a minimum, the Bay SAFE navigation project will give the Coast Guard a much wider area through which to move deep draft vessels, thereby decreasing vessel traffic congestion and the risk of head on collisions. I am confident that the Coast Guard, working the local community, can come up with a traffic separation scheme that expedites shipping and enhances environmental protection.

I am aware that there are environmental concerns about removing these rocks. That is why Bay SAFE directs the Army Corps to design this project to minimize the impact on the environment and fisheries. The bill also provides for mitigation of any unavoidable damage. But in weighing the merits of this project, we must measure the long-term benefits against the short-term costs.

According to the maritime exchange, which tracks shipping traffic in San Francisco Bay, over 800 tankers entered the bay last year, carrying hundreds of millions—if not billions—of gallons of oil and other hazardous substances. Nearly one-quarter of these tankers are large enough to strike the submerged rocks near Alcatraz. If one small oil spill caused \$10 million in damage, how many billions of dollars in damage to fisheries and wildlife would be caused by a major spill? If this project avoids even one modest oil spill, I believe it will have been worth the minor disruption to the marine environment caused by its construction.

San Francisco Bay is an invaluable natural and economic resource to the bay area and to the entire Nation. In the coming months, I will be taking every opportunity to increase protection of the bay area from oil or hazardous substance spills. As stated in a February 25 editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle, Bay SAFE is "a prudent move forward". It is the least we can do to protect our bay. I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort.

#### THE SELF-EMPLOYED HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 1997

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 1997*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Self-Employed Health Fairness Act of 1997, legislation which will raise to 100 percent the deductibility of health insurance costs for the self-employed. This common sense legislation will restore equity and fairness in the tax treatment of many of this Nation's small business entrepreneurs. I introduced identical legislation in the 104th Congress, and received the support of over 50 bipartisan cosponsors.

Our current tax code is fundamentally unfair to the smallest of our Nation's business own-

ers: the self-employed. Larger corporations enjoy a permanent, 100 percent deduction of health insurance costs, while in 1997 a self-employed individual is only allowed to deduct 40 percent of these same costs. We must ask ourselves a very basic and fundamental question: Why should the self-employed small business person be treated differently than a large corporation?

The 104th Congress did begin to address this problem, and I do not mean to take lightly the progress that it made. Two pieces of legislation were enacted that provided relief to the self-employed. First, legislation was enacted which restored and made permanent the deductibility that had expired during the 103d Congress, and raised the level of deductibility from 25 to 30 percent. Second, legislation which incrementally raised the deductibility to 80 percent by the year 2006 was also enacted. These were important steps, and I was proud to have supported them. However, as a matter of fairness and equity, we can and should do better.

By raising the deductibility to 100 percent, we are helping to achieve two important goals. We are strengthening the most important sector of our economy by relieving a significant tax burden that self-employed small businessmen and women must now shoulder. We are also helping to ensure that more Americans have access health care, because without full deductibility, these costs are sometimes more than a small business owner can afford.

Let's send a message to America's self-employed that they are just as important as big business. Let's restore fairness and equity to the tax code's treatment of the health care expenses of self-employed individuals. I urge my colleagues to join me in enacting this important legislation.

#### IN HONOR OF GRACE CHURCH VAN VORST'S 8TH ANNUAL CATHEDRAL ARTS FESTIVAL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 1997*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Grace Church Van Vorst in Jersey City for its exceptional efforts to strengthen the arts community and to promote an appreciation for Hudson County's cultural background. Grace Church Van Vorst will hold its 8th Annual Cathedral Arts Festival Gala and Preview Sale on March 1, 1997.

The annual festival has become an important vehicle for young artists to make their work known to the public. It serves not only as a tremendous opportunity for local artists to showcase their talent, but also to enrich the surrounding community by exposing Hudson County residents to the variety of artistic styles that exist in the area.

This year's celebration will have artwork from various genres, including live performances. The 8th Annual Cathedral Arts Festival will be an evening filled with artistic discussion, fine food, and lively music. Individual artists will be on hand to discuss and sell their work. All donations will go to the physical needs of the historic Grace Church Van Vorst.

Grace Church Van Vorst is also celebrating its 150th anniversary. Since its founding in 1847, Grace Church Van Vorst has diligently worked to improve the downtown area of Jersey City. In addition to providing low-income housing for the impoverished residents of Hudson County, it funds "Let's Celebrate," an organization that assists the homeless residents of Hudson County.

I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in honoring the Grace Church Van Vorst for its outstanding civic contributions. I commend its accomplishments as well as its efforts to assist the local arts community. I hope it will continue to serve the community for another 150 years.

#### TRIBUTE TO YOUNG KEON HOOKS

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 27, 1997*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with heavy heart that I advise my colleagues in the House of the death of a young 7-year-old boy named Keon Hooks of Clearwater, FL. Keon died on Friday, February 21, 1997, of a plastic anemia, a form of leukemia.

Keon was in need of a bone marrow transplant, and as you know, I have championed the National Bone Marrow Registry for years. Whenever I learn of a case like Keon I cannot help but ask myself, as well as my colleagues, what more can we do to encourage people to join the National Bone Marrow Registry in an effort to be a potential match and donor.

Despite repeated drives for Keon, a match for him was not found. As a last resort his mother Stacy donated her bone marrow in October, even though it was only a partial match. Two other transplants were needed for Keon as his body was rejecting his mother's bone marrow and succumbed to several infections.

Still, Keon fought valiantly for his life and always kept a smile on his face. He was known as a practical joker, and I recall how he would attend bone marrow drives in the African-American communities of the Tampa Bay area to thank those who were signing up for the registry and to join in trying to get others to participate.

On Saturday, 1 week short of his 8th birthday, Keon will be buried. His funeral service will be the birthday party he wanted to celebrate. Today, in Keon's memory, let us pledge ourselves to redouble our efforts in our local communities to recruit our constituents to join the National Bone Marrow Registry so that "the gift of life"—a bone marrow transplant—can be passed to those who like Keon are in need of this lifesaving procedure.

Finally, let us set a moment aside to remember Keon. The inspiration he has left in my district and in the entire Tampa Bay area is hard to describe, but I know that this young man, a fighter whose disease still could not take away his admiration of his mother and sisters and his love of life, will be cherished by all who had come to know him.